

## *A Critical Review of the Boccaccian Years 2014-2015<sup>1</sup>*

The title of this survey echoes that which Christopher Kleinhenz and Elsa Filosa chose for their review of academic publications on the Certaldese author during the seventh centenary of his birth. The year 2013 was one of abundant critical reflection: not only did it see many important publications on Giovanni Boccaccio's works, but thanks to the many conventions, exhibitions and other celebratory events, it sowed the seeds for numerous volumes published in the subsequent two years, which shall be highlighted in this review.

### ***Conference Proceedings***

Given the primarily novelistic interests of «Arnovite», the content of this review will be limited to contributions that concern Boccaccio's novelistic production and must necessarily leave aside publications relating to other aspects of his work. Therefore, this survey will not treat in depth such excellent contributions as *Boccaccio editore e interprete di Dante: atti del Convegno internazionale di Roma, 28-30 ottobre 2013*, edited by Luca Azzetta and Andrea Mazzucchi (Roma, Salerno, 2014), from which we highlight only the intertextual essay *Dante nel Decameron*. In this essay Luigi Surdich explores the generative capacity of Dantean literary memory in the *Decameron*, which operates both as a conceptual and lexical inspiration and as a parodical overturning of stilnovistic love. Surdich identifies hints of «criptodantism» which, as we read in the perceptive final analysis, can overturn the sense of an oppositional dittology in Dante.

Similar thematic limitations allow us to touch only marginally upon another important collected volume, edited by Marco Ballarini and Giuseppe Frasso, with the collaboration of Stefania Baragetti: *Verso il centenario del Boccaccio: Presenze classiche e tradizione biblica*, fourth volume in the Classe di italianistica series (Milan – Rome, Biblioteca Ambrosiana – Bulzoni, 2014). This collection reproduces the acts of a conference held in 2012 at the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in conjunction with an exhibition of Boccaccian manuscripts from the collection, among which stand out as most remarkable the A 204 inf. (containing the *Nicomachean Ethics* with a translation by Robert Grosseteste and commentary by Thomas Aquinas, the latter copied in the Certaldese's hand) and C 67 sup. (in which Boccaccio copied and glossed the *Epigrams* of Martial), and which are the focus of the philological essay by Marco Petoletti. Ermanno Paccagnini offers a thorough discussion of classical influences in the *Corbaccio*, highlighting the Boccaccian reappropriations of Seneca, Valerius Maximus, Cicero, Martial,